

What is claimed is:

1. An expansion valve comprising:

a cassette unit containing major components of the expansion valve; and

a housing having a refrigerant path and accommodating the cassette unit via a seal member; wherein

the cassette unit comprises a pipe member, a refrigerant path formed to the pipe member, a flange member connected to an end of the pipe member, a lid member covering the flange member, a diaphragm disposed between the flange member and the lid member, and a valve mechanism for transmitting a displacement of the diaphragm to a valve member so as to control the flow of refrigerant; and

the housing is formed integrally with an evaporator of an air conditioner.

2. An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing is joined to the evaporator via a brazing means.

3. An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing and the evaporator are communicated via a pipe.

4. An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing is disposed within a refrigerant tank of the evaporator.